the Government, under its revised mega power policy announced some time back, has decided to set up a Power Trading Corporation (PTC) with majority equity participation by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), along with National Theremal Power Corporation (NTPC), Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and other financial institutions. Concerned State Governments/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) would also be co-opted, if found feasible. The PTC would purchase power from the identified private mega projects and sell it to the concerned State Electricity Boards/distributors/ licencees.

(c) The Standing Independent Group, headed by Justice P.N. Bhagwati, Retired Chief Justice of India, is the apex body to oversee implementation of the private mega power projects. A task force has also been set up within the Ministry of Power headed by the Special Secretary (Power) for monitoring the progress made by the Private power projects including the private mega projects.

Seizure of Explosives/RDX

*205. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in southern States, especially in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, where explosives/RDX were seized duing 1998;

(b) the number of such seizures;

(c) the number of persons arrested in these cases; and

(d) the steps taken Or proposed to be taken to ensure that such explosives are not sumuggled into the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Based on the information available, the details are given in the statement, *(see* below)

(d) Government has taken several measures which include gearing up of the intelligence machinery, sharing of actionable intelligence, development of Para-military forces on need basis, intensification of Coastal Patrolling and adequate steps towards border fencing, etc. to curb infiltration and smuggling.

Statement

S. No.	State	No. of cases	No. of persons arrested	Qty. of RDX	Qty. of other Explosives
1.	Tamil Nadu	118	170	Nil	Gelatin Sticks-10539 Nos. Gelatin - 60 Kgs. Gelatin - 2 bags (Wt. not known) Other Explosive-1332.895 kgs Other Explosive-47 Boxes (Wt. not known)
2.	Andhra Pradesh	26	52	18kgs	Gelatin Sticks-1383 Nos. Gelatin - 202 kgs Gelation - 2 Bags (Wt. not known). Other Explosive-100.5 kgs
3.	Kerala	15	14	Nil	Gelatin Sticks-8644 Nos. Gelatin - 4225 kgs Other Explosive-1817.5 kgs.

Non-Payment of Dues by DVB

*206. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Badarpur Thermal Power Station, which meets nearly l/3rd electricity requirements of Delhi, if facing a crisis sparked of by non-payment of dues by the DVB;

(b) whether it is also a fact that non-payment

of dues would adversely affect the supply of coal to the Power Station; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and how Government propose to meet the istuation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The entire energy output from Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS) is supplied to Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB). The operation and maintenance expenses of BTPS are met out of realisation of energy bills from DVB. DVB has been a chronic defaulter in the payment of energy bills. Coal is supplied to BTPS by the Coal Companies and Railways under cash and carry scheme.

The total realisation against BTPS's energy bill from DVB during 1998-99 (upto February, 1999) including diversion of funds from Central Plan Assistance of Government of Delhi, has been only 56% of the billed amount. As a result, BTPS was not able to meet the payment commitments in full to Coal Companies and Railways. Hence the coal supplies were affected from December, 1998 onwards. However, BTPS maintained full generation by using the coal out of their stock to meet the winter demand of Delhi. As a result, the station's coal stock depleted to a critically low level.

Government of India has been taking up the issue regarding non-payment of dues by DVB with the Government of NCT of Delhi as well as DVB from time to time. This issue has also been discussed at the highest level in the past. Recently, the matter was discussed by me in a meeting with the Power Minister of Delhi and officials of Government of Delhi and DVB when the gravity of the situation arising out of the non-payment of energy bills to BTPS by DVB was explained to them. Government of Delhi/DVB have agreed for opening of a Letter of Credit for full amount of energy bills in favour of BTPS in April, 1999, as well as for furnishing a schedule for liquidation of the reconciled outstandings of BTPS payable by DVB. In pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting, Government of Delhi/DVB has released Rs. 50 crores against outstanding in February, 1999. BTPS, in turn, have now paid to the Coal Companies and Railways, for the current coal supplies.

Export of garments

*207. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total garment exports from India during last five years;

(b) whether garment exports during 1997-98, till date, have come down;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for promotion of garment exports?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The total garment exports from India during the last five years were as follows:

Year	Value in Million US dollars
1993-94	3,713.65
1994-95	4,433.83
1995-96	4,453.31
1996-97	4,762.10
1997-98	4,910.70

(b) and (c) The garment exports during April, 1998-February, 1999 have shown an increase of 7.1% over the performance during the corresponding period of 1997-98.

(d) In order to encourage the export of garments, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangments for duty free import of raw materials for export production, Human Resources Development in the garment sector, etc. Apart from the above, a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched for the textile and jute industries, including the garment sector, to encourage modernisation and technological upgradation so as to enhance their productivity and competitiveness. An Expert Committee for giving recommendations for a new Textile Policy has also been set up.